

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 29, 2018

Dr. Donald E. Fennoy II  
Superintendent  
School District of Palm Beach County  
Fulton-Holland Educational Services Center  
3300 Forest Hill Boulevard  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Dear Superintendent Fennoy:

We last wrote your predecessor, Superintendent Robert Avossa, in May 2017, urging him to incorporate human trafficking education into the Palm Beach School System curriculum. We write today to urge you to consider the importance of teaching students to be vigilant of the threats posed by the growing threat of trafficking in our community.

We commend you for your commitment to the education of K-12 students in our communities. We know you have worked very hard since assuming the role of Superintendent to provide nurturing and safe spaces to learn, which is critical for early education. Given the serious nature of trafficking in persons (TIP), we believe that more must be done to educate students, families, and faculty of the dangers and signs of trafficking, and the resources available for combatting this modern-day form of slavery.

As you know, traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims and subject them to compelled labor or commercial sex acts. According to the International Labour Organization, an organization active in the global fight to eradicate modern slavery, there are 40.3 million victims of TIP worldwide. One in four of these victims of modern slavery are children. Within the United States, Florida has the third highest rate of TIP, and Palm Beach County ranks third for in-state TIP incidences.

Many child victims of TIP are students in the public school system. A 2015 Department of Justice funded study of domestic sex trafficking of minors reported a median age of entry into prostitution of 15 years old. School administrators, staff, and students need to be aware that these reprehensible crimes are taking place right in our community, and that no school is immune from traffickers. Furthermore, educators and school personnel are well positioned to help identify and report suspected abuse and instances of trafficking. With appropriate training in the risk-factors, warning signs, recruitment, and methods for identifying trafficking, school faculty can save lives by recognizing the signs and intervening to connect students to services.

As we are sure you will agree, it is of the utmost importance that we do more to prevent trafficking in our communities. We ask that you join us in moving the discussion forward on how we can best address this critically important issue.

Sincerely,



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 29, 2018

Robert W. Runcie  
Superintendent  
Broward County Public Schools  
600 SE Third Ave  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear Superintendent Runcie:

We last wrote you in May 2017, urging you to incorporate human trafficking education into the Palm Beach School System curriculum. We write today to again urge you to consider the importance of teaching students to be vigilant of the threats posed by the growing threat of trafficking in our community.

We commend you for your commitment to the education of K-12 students in our communities. We know you have worked very hard to provide nurturing and safe spaces to learn, which is critical for early education. While we were pleased to see a section on Human Trafficking on the Broward County Public Schools website, in addition to the noting of January 11<sup>th</sup> as Human Trafficking Awareness Day on the Diversity, Prevention and Intervention school calendar, we urge you to further incorporate human trafficking education into the curriculums of the Broward County Public Schools systems. Given the serious nature of trafficking in persons (TIP), we believe that more must be done to educate students, families, and faculty of the dangers and signs of trafficking, and the resources available for combatting this modern-day form of slavery.

As you know, traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims and subject them to compelled labor or commercial sex acts. According to the International Labour Organization, an organization active in the global fight to eradicate modern slavery, there are 40.3 million victims of TIP worldwide. One in four of these victims of modern slavery are children. Within the United States, Florida has the third highest rate of TIP, and Broward County ranks first for in-state TIP incidences.

Many child victims of TIP are students in the public school system. A 2015 Department of Justice funded study of domestic sex trafficking of minors reported a median age of entry into prostitution of 15 years old. School administrators, staff, and students need to be aware that these reprehensible crimes are taking place right in our community, and that no school is immune from traffickers. Furthermore, educators and school personnel are well positioned to help identify and report suspected abuse and instances of trafficking. With appropriate training in the risk-factors, warning signs, recruitment, and methods for identifying trafficking, school faculty can save lives by recognizing the signs and intervening to connect students to services.

As we are sure you will agree, it is of the upmost importance that we do more to prevent trafficking in our communities. We ask that you join us in moving the discussion forward on how we can best address this critically important issue.

Sincerely,



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
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Member of Congress



Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress